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ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1961





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ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman :

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Vice-Chairman :

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Councillors :

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J. HIGHAM, Esq., J.P.	

Clerk :

R. RYDER, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :

Medical Officer of Health :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

N. G. WEIR,

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Inspectors' Association of Scotland

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ASPULL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1961.

The Report is in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the district, and I would also like to extend my thanks to the Public Health Inspector and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area : 1,906 acres.

Population (Census 1951) : 6,522.

Estimated mid-1960 (Registrar General) : 6,790.

Total Number of Houses : 2,251.

Rateable Value : £44,050.

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £174.

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.

Industries : One Cotton Mill, One Engineering Works and One Modern Bakery.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1961

		Males	Females	Total
Live Births :	Legitimate	55	58	113
	Illegitimate	—	2	2
Still Births :	Legitimate	1	1	2
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		—	1	1
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age		—	1	1

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :

Total (all forms) :

Crude Rate	...	...	...	...	...	10.2
Adjusted Rate	...	...	...	...	...	13.1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Malignant neoplasm, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1.33

Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population :

Crude Rate	...	...	...	...	...	16.9
Adjusted Rate	...	...	...	...	...	16.6

Still birth rate per 1,000 total births

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births

Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births

Pre-natal mortality rate per 1,000 total births

CANCER

Nine deaths (4 males and 5 females) were certified as due to cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Aspull residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at Wigan Infirmary, which for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	...	...	...	...	No. of Deaths	
					1960	1961
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	—
Malignant neoplasm uteris	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	6	6
Leukaemia, Atenkaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	9	13
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	12	12
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	4	—
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	12	10
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	2	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	2	1
All other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	4	6
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	—
Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	...	65	69
					—	—

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and the arrangements are satisfactory. Chemical analyses of water samples are carried out at the City Analyst's Department at the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department and during 1961, reports were made to the Authority on 12 examinations of milk and 8 of water.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS

During the year, Non-Infectious, Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with adequately by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council, stationed at Hindley and Standish.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 176 of which 173 were cases of Measles, and 3 Pneumonia.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and the local hospitals, and are always available to the medical practitioners.

Free immunisation is provided for any pre-school or school child, and is performed by the Medical Officer at the Clinic.

No immunisation against the enteric group was undertaken during 1961.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics show the number of children resident in Aspull who were immunised and vaccinated during the year :

	Pre-School Children		School Children		Adults
	1960	1961	1960	1961	1961
Triple Atigen (Diphtheria- Whooping Cough and Tetanus)	99	100	33	39	-
Diphtheria Re-inforcing Injections	12	7	183	71	-
Poliomyelitis : Primary ...	87	126	20	107	314
Re-inforcing	88	74	142	405	71
Smallpox Vaccinations ...	54	53	-	-	4
Re-vaccinations	-	1	-	-	1

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remain high and the cases of head lice dealt with at the clinic were few and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1961

DISEASES	Total Cases all ages								25 and over	Age Un- known
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis										
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding Rubella)	173	9	19	32	27	35	50	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	173									

DISEASES	Total Cases all ages						65 and over	Age Un- known
		0—	5—	15—	45—			
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Meninges and C.N.S.	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7							

TUBERCULOSIS

The dispensary service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and Aspull cases attend at the Chest Clinic in Millgate, Wigan.

3 Cases of Pulmonary and 1 case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

No deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred during 1961.

The table below shows notification by age group for 1961.

TUBERCULOSIS: NEW CASES

Age (Years)	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 - 2	...	—	—	...
5 - 14	...	—	1	...
25 - 44	...	1	1	...
		—	—	—
	1	2	—	—
Totals	...	3	—	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied with water from Bolton Corporation, Wigan Rural District Council and Liverpool Corporation. The supply is upland surface and is found to be bacteriologically pure. During the year 4 bacteriological examinations and 4 chemical analyses of the piped supply were made and these proved satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main.

The County Borough of Bolton are the responsible Authority for the Supply and Maintenance of the water undertaking for the district.

No. of houses with supply direct from the public water main	2,251			
No. of houses supplied from springs, etc.	...	...	...	Nil
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	...	...	...	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The combined system of drainage is in operation throughout the district. All dwellings with the exception of 14 isolated cottages and farms have a water carriage system of sanitation.

The district is faced with the problem of sewers being inadequate and overloaded if further development of the district is to take place. The foul sewer system from Hilton and Crawford Estates is nearly functioning to capacity, any further development in the Scot Lane area will necessitate new sewerage provisions. The system from Scot Lane Settling Tank catering for the Bolton Road, Hall Lane, and Top Lock areas is mainly the old system and requires investigation. Periodic cleansing is required on stretches of this sewer due to silting up. The Aspull Urban District's sewerage system connects to the Wigan County Borough system who treat the effluent.

During the year 142 inspections were made in connection with drainage and sewerage.

Number of choked drains and sewers cleared by the Authority	128
Number of houses affected	... ... ... ... ... ... 156

The Sanitary Accommodation in the district at the end of the year was :

Number of Fresh Water Closets	... ... ... ... 2,238
Number of Pail Closets	... ... ... ... 13
Number of Privy Middens	... ... ... ... 1

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street scavenging is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

One driver and five labourers are employed full time on refuse collection and a tractor and driver on the tip.

Difficulty is experienced in obtaining the proper type of labour in refuse collection. This is due no doubt to the supposedly menial character of the work and also the fact that there are a large number of alternative jobs available in the area. I must stress, however, that refuse collection is a very important service provided for the community and deserves very serious consideration in all its aspects.

A five day collection is being maintained as far as possible in all parts of the district. On occasions, however, mainly due to the weather conditions and sickness this has not been possible.

A weekly salvage collection is maintained to all business premises and facilities are provided on the refuse vehicle for salvage collection. A total weight of 40 tons 5 cwts. 2 qrs. of paper was sold during the year.

The Council are contemplating a scheme introducing the use of Paper Sacks specially treated to withstand moisture and a certain degree of heat ; initially, approximately 150 houses are

being equipped as a Pilot Scheme. All the schools in the local authority's area are also being adapted to this method of collection. By initiating this scheme I think the Council are to be congratulated in showing that they are fully alive to possible new methods of refuse collection, and also the difficulties in ensuring as far as possible an efficient and hygienic service to the rate payers.

Controlled tipping is enforced at the Marsh House refuse tip and has shown very gratifying results.

When the present area being used is completed it should provide an added amenity to the district of open park-land.

A dust bin replacement scheme providing for the renewal of 200 dustbins per year is in operation in the district.

There are 13 pail closets, one privy midden and approximately 2,400 dustbins within the district.

Approximate number of dustbins emptied	...	...	130,789
Approximate number of pail closets emptied	...	...	692
Approximate weight of refuse removed (tons)	...	...	5,750

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following action was taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of defects :—

Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	197
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Defects and Nuisances found	...	...	...	327
Number abated	...	...	...	298

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no licensed caravan sites within the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are two factory chimneys in the district and no action has been found necessary during the year.

Clean Air Act, 1956 : The whole of the Clean Air Act, 1956* came into operation on 1st June, 1956. Previously this Authority had adopted bye-laws governing the installation of types of appliances in all new premises, suitable to burn permissible types of fuel.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the district.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year 37 houses infested with cockroaches and 59 ant infestations were treated with Pybuthrin. Eleven other houses were disinfested of other insect pests either by spraying with liquid insecticide or by dusting with insecticidal powder. This type of treatment proved highly efficient.

RODENT CONTROL

331 infestations of rats or mice were cleared during the year in addition to the two sewer treatments. The treatment of dwelling houses is free of charge but a charge is made for treatment of business premises.

1,817 inspections (including re-inspections) were made in 1961.

One Rodent Operative is employed for three days per week on this work.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no registered premises within the district.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

12 Licences to store petroleum were issued during the year and six inspections were made under the Acts.

HOUSING

The township consists chiefly of working class houses which are old in type and constantly falling into disrepair.

Overcrowding exists only to a minor degree and those requiring houses are mainly married couples having to live with parents. 36 new housing applications were received during the year, of which six were applications for old people's bungalows.

No new houses were constructed by the local authority during the year. It is proposed to commence building 46 dwellings, i.e., 24 two-bedroom flats and 22 two-bedroom houses. 16 Houses were built by private enterprise during the year and it is expected that another 45 houses will be erected by private building in the next 12 months. The Council have also available a site suitable for 72 houses and 6 shops.

A further scheme for the next five years has been agreed by the Council and several houses have already been dealt with which are included in this programme.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year :

Traditional permanent houses :

(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	16

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts)	470
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1321
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :	
(a) Number found during year	79
(b) Total number (or estimated number) existing at end of year	75
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ...	319

2. -HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN CLEARANCE AREAS :

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	-	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-	-

Not in Clearance Area :

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	3	-	-
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health ...	-	-	-
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	-	-	-
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	-	-	-

3.—UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :

(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	2	8	2
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-

4.—UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS
WERE REMEDIED :

		By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority		102	—
(2) After formal notice under			
(a) Public Health Acts ...	...	...	114
(b) Housing Act, 1957 ...	...	...	—
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 ...		—	—

5.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE :

Housing Act, 1957)

		No. of Houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. (1) (2)
Position at end of year :			
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation			
(a) Under Section 48	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(2)	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	Nil
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	Nil

6.—PURCHASE OF HOUSE BY AGREEMENT :

		No. of Houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	Nil

RENT ACT, 1957

There has been a reduction in the number of applications and queries appertaining to the Rent Act, 1957. In my opinion this is mainly due to the fact that repairs are being dealt with more speedily by landlords who are in receipt of increased rents.

During the year the following applications and undertakings were dealt with in respect of repairs to houses where the rent had been increased.

PART I :

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

(1) Number of applications for Certificates	...	...	6
(2) Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	...	...	—
(3) Number of decisions to issue Certificates	...	...	6
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	—
(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	6
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	3
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	—
(6) Number of Certificates issued	...	...	3

PART II :

APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates	...	...	...	1
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	...	...	...	—
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	...	...	...	—
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	...	1

7. HOUSING ACTS : IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.

No applications were received for Improvement Grants during the year.

Nine applications for Standard Grants were received and approved during the year. Two applications dealt with rented premises and it is gratifying to see the Standard Grant facilities being used for this type of property ; in my opinion, the Standard Grant Scheme is not being used as extensively as it should be to improve the living conditions in rented houses. There are many properties in the area which could be vastly improved by means of Standard Grants - if this were done it would no doubt lighten the burden of slum clearance which faces local authorities.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Routine inspections of farms and dairies have been carried out and a good standard of cleanliness maintained. 12 samples of milk have been analysed, and proved to be satisfactory.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958, came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. Therefore, on and after that date all dairymen retailing milk in any part of the area must sell the milk under special designation (that is " Pasteurised," " Sterilised " and " Tuberculin Tested ")

irrespective of whether the premises from which the milk is retailed are inside or outside the area, and any milk which is retailed outside the specified area from those same premises must also be sold under special designation.

Lancashire County Council are now the responsible Authority for the issuing of milk licences.

The following is a record of action taken in relation to sampling :

		No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No. Result
(a) Raw Milk :					
(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests	6	6(Neg)	—	—	
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	4	4	—	—	
(iii) B. Typhosus examinations ...	4	4	—	—	
(iv) Sediment tests ...	—	—	—	—	
(b) " Heat Treated " Milk :					
(i) Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	
“ Pasteurised ” :					
(ii) Phosphatase tests	6	6	—	—	
(iii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	6	6	—	—	
“ Sterilised ” :					
(iv) Turbidity tests	—	—	—	—	

No Ministry investigations by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were found necessary during the year as a result of notifications of tuberculosis milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no private slaughterhouses in the district.

Butchers obtain their supplies from surrounding abattoirs.

A total of 35 samples were obtained in the district consisting of 20 samples of milk (two of which were Channel Islands Milk) and 15 others, comprising :

- 2 Mincemeat
- 1 Sccone Mixture—sweetened
- 1 Vegetables—canned
- 1 Flour
- 1 Pickles
- 1 White Pepper
- 1 Pearl Barley
- 1 Cooking Fat
- 1 Vegetables—dried
- 1 Baking Powder
- 1 Tea
- 2 Dried Fruit
- 1 Butter Snap.

I give below details of one sample upon which the County Analyst gave an adverse report :

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action taken
1 Dried Fruit ...	Weight of currants found to be approximately three times that of sultanas, but sultanas printed first in the list of ingredients.	Packers communicated with.

The following other foods were condemned during the year :

Corned Beef ...	...	...	...	18 lbs.
Ox Tongue ...	...	...	...	9 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat ...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Ham ...	...	...	...	9 lbs. 8 ozs.
Chicken ...	...	...	...	80 lbs.
Shoulder Beef ...	...	...	...	29 lbs.

Food condemned is collected by the Authority and buried on the refuse tip or burned.

The following is a list of food premises within the district :

TYPE OF BUSINESS :

General grocers and provision dealers	...	...	...	31
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.) ...	...	...	...	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meat, tripe, etc.) ...	...	...	...	5
Bakers and/or confectioners ...	...	...	...	9
Fried fish shops ...	...	...	...	7
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc. ...	...	...	...	8
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and other similar establishments ...	...	...	...	27

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, was as follows :

Premises for the storage and retail sale of ice-cream	...	24
Preserved, etc., food premises	...	4

Eighteen visits were paid to the registered premises during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

All food premises and vehicles of hawkers entering the district have been inspected ; also the vehicles of itinerant ice-cream vendors.

Considerable progress has been made without resort to formal action or prosecution, but much more remains to be achieved.

The obligations of the occupiers and food handlers as regards the conditions of premises and methods of food handling are greatly stressed in the Regulations, but customers and consumers would greatly help to facilitate the work of the Public Health Inspector by observing hygienic practices when in food premises and also by patronising shops that provide a clean and hygienic service to their customers.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS,
1947-52

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.

At retailers' premises all ice-cream sold is pre-packed and stored in cabinet refrigerators at or below 28 deg. F.

FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

Premises	M/C Line No.	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	6	10	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	1	1	—	—
TOTAL		7	11	—	—

